

MEDIA FAIRNESS CAUCUS

A Look at Media Bias

Rep. Lamar Smith (R-TX), Chairman

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Networks Show Bias on Arizona Immigration Law 4/27/10



The three networks have given mostly negative coverage to Arizona's new immigration enforcement law, which Arizonans support overwhelmingly.

CBS' gave the perspective of opponents of the law, featuring video of signs that read, "Veto Racism" and "Stop the Hate." Reporter Bill Whitaker highlighted comments from an opponent who called the law "mean-spirited" and compared it to Nazi repression.

ABC said the law created a "political storm" and said "protesters hit the streets."

NBC asked an Arizona Sheriff, "Are you worried that it affects the image of your state?" and questioned if the new policy will "distract law enforcement" and "take valuable resources away from cracking down on more serious crimes."

CBS Promotes Democrats' Financial Reform Agenda

CBS has repeatedly promoted the Democrats' financial reform agenda recently, according to an analysis by the Media Research Center.

During Friday's CBS *Early Show*, co-host Maggie Rodriguez declared that when it comes to financial reform legislation, "**Democrats have all the leverage right now.**" *Face the Nation* host Bob Schieffer observed that "**They think this is the time to picture Republicans as trying to protect fat cat bankers ...**"

On Thursday's *CBS Evening News*, White House correspondent Chip Reid indicated Republicans were blocking the bill: "**On Capitol Hill, some angry Republicans said the President's plan is not what the American people want ... In the Senate, where just yesterday bipartisanship seemed to be breaking out all over, today saw a return to gridlock and finger pointing ...**"

Objective Reporters or Democrat Shills?

"President Reagan and the first President Bush used their second Supreme Court nominations to make bold choices that strongly advanced their **ideological** interests ... [President Clinton's] first pick was **pragmatic** liberal judge Ruth Bader Ginsburg, in 1993. His second pick ... was in the same mode." -- *USA Today* Supreme Court reporter Joan Biskupic, April 12.

"We're talking about violence and the name-calling and that sort of thing.... **We have seen it on the Republican and the conservative side much, much more than on the Democratic side.** -- CNN's Don Lemon, April 9

"By the time the [nuclear] conference was over, the President won a pledge from the leaders of 46 other nations to safeguard nuclear materials so terrorists cannot get ahold of them ... Is it safe to say, '**Mission Accomplished**'?" -- *CBS Evening News* anchor Katie Couric, April 13

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